

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2012**

Members Present: Thompson, Lardizzone, Carroll, Corsa, Evans, Goss, Harden, Keithley, Lank, McMullen, Newstadt, Newman, Sarg, Showell and Weir

Members Excused: Wasson

Staff Present: Davila and Studd

Introduction of Guest(s): Daniel Hendee (VAMC Director), Linda Boone (Home of the Brave), Jerry Stauffer and Myron Smith (DELVETS), Bettylou Evans (American Legion), James Collins (SOS), Michelle Lee (Community Blue Print), Jack Tillmon (The Alliance of Disabled Veterans), Judy C. Campbell (Survivor Outreach Services) and Alvin Puller.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag.

Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Bill McMullen as a new Commissioner.

Commissioner Corsa presented a check from the VVA in the amount of \$500 to the Home of the Brave for the homeless women veterans' shelter.

Ms. Boone provided an update on the progress of the Home of the Brave and the homeless women veterans' shelter. She also reported that the Home of the Brave was featured in the American Legion Auxiliary Convention program.

Mr. Smith mentioned suicide was on the rise and vented about veterans being charged for medical care and discussion followed.

Mrs. Evans reported that she had just returned from the American Legion National Convention and she is now on the Magazine Commission at National.

Ms. Lee announced that AmeriCorps is making a new Request For Proposal (RFP) available; she outlined the parameters of the RFP and encouraged the organizations to apply.

Ms. Campbell spoke about the Survivor Outreach Services and she announced that September 30th is American Gold Star Mother's Day.

Commissioner Showell introduced herself and spoke about the National Guard Association Conference she recently attended. She also provided details about a new program called Vet Corps Volunteer.

Mr. Hendee reported that he is making his rounds and is still getting acclimated. He is trying to get things organized for next year, such as budgets and performance metrics. Commissioner Corsa provided feedback about the clinic in Southern Delaware, which prompted a discussion and suggestions as to how to improve services.

Mr. Collins spoke about issues pertaining to the Veterans Home and the Commission website.

Commissioner Corsa indicated that he recently attended a meeting concerning aging and disabled individuals and the prediction is that this population is expected to increase by 45% between now and 2020 in Sussex County. Discussion followed.

Ms. Studd provided an update for the Delaware Veterans Home.

**MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT AUGUST COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY CORSA, MOTION CARRIED.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**NORTHERN CEMETERY**

Commissioner Harden reported a new full-time employee was hired at the Northern Cemetery. The raise and realignment project is underway and they have also been cleaning up the gardens. The Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) will meet on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, following the VA “big check” presentation for the raise and realignment project.

**SOUTHERN CEMETERY**

Commissioner Evans reported that the Virtual Visitation program is up and running and Mr. Davila elaborated. There were comments and discussion about the new program.

Commissioner Corsa had questions about the *Wreaths Across America* program and Mr. Davila responded.

**HEALTH SERVICES**

Commissioner Corsa announced that Friday will be a day of recognition for POW/MIA and mentioned the Governor will sign HB 276 for the POW/MIA flag at the Smyrna American Legion. Gold Star Mothers, Chapter 850 of the VVA, is selling bricks for the Kent County monument.

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

Vice Chairman Lardizzone reported that he met with Representative Jaques and they will be cranking things up in January 2013. The Commission will be pushing for the approval of the WWII memorial.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Commissioner Corsa provided a copy of an e-mail from a deployed soldier and discussion followed.

**BY-LAWS**

Commissioner Lank provided an exert of the revised edition of the By-Laws that encompassed the additional two members to the Commission and discussion followed.

**ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

Carroll (MOPH) – Announced their Region I meeting will be held in Essington, PA, on October 27, 2012. He also said a proclamation had been developed for National Purple Heart Day for the State of Delaware.

Corsa (VVA) – Reported that the *Miles for the Military* Bike Run that occurred on June 2012 has donated over \$7,000 to the VVA. He read the list of organizations and causes that will benefit from this donation. He also announced a plaque will be donated at the Southern Cemetery and the date will be announced at a later time.

Evans (American Legion) – They had a good Convention and there will be an Executive meeting held at the end of the month.

Goss (KWVA) – They will have their quarterly State Department meeting on Thursday, September 20, 2012, at the Dover American Legion.

Harden (WAVES) – She attended the Veterans Home Advisory Committee meeting on September 5, 2012.

Keithley (40 & 8) – There will be light refreshments after the signing of HB 276 mentioned earlier by Commissioner Corsa.

Lank (MOWW) – Their organization is up and running and he spoke about a speaker at their recent meeting. He also indicated that they are working on getting a flag and flag pole at the Northern Cemetery.

Lardizzone (DAV) – They recently held their Chapter and Department meetings. He indicated that they will purchase two bricks and donate \$100 to *Wreaths Across America*.

McMullen (AFSA) – There will be a POW/MIA Ceremony at DAFB on September 21, 2012, and a MILCON briefing on October 15, 2012.

Newman (VFW) – He will attend the Eastern States Conference in Germany on October 4-9, 2012.

Newstadt (JWV) – He announced that he had a check for \$100 for the Home of the Brave and spoke about the Delaware Military Heritage Museum. Delaware Military Heritage Day will be observed in Delaware City on October 20, 2012.

Sarg (MOAA) – He represented MOAA at the Public Engagement Conference at Dover Downs in August and spoke about the most recent events he has attended.

Annual elections were conducted; Vice Chairman Lardizzone was elected to Chairman and Commissioner Goss was elected as Vice Chairman.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:      OCTOBER 16, 2012 (10:00 AM)**

**LOCATION:                                   Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100  
Dover, DE**

**ADJOURNED**